

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 25-28, and 36-39 were rejected in the Final Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Liebeck (U.S. Patent No. 999,375) in view of Linkletter (U.S. Patent No. 4,087,319) and in further view of Smook (Chapter 23 of Handbook for Pulp and Paper Technologists). The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowance of Claims 6-24 and 29-35.

In this proposed Amendment, Applicants propose canceling Claims 1-5 and 25-28 and amending Claim 36. Upon entry of the proposed Amendment, Claims 6-24 and 29-39 will be pending, of which Claims 6, 29, and 36 are independent claims with Claims 6-24 and 29-35 having been indicated as allowed by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining pending claims for the reasons discussed below.

For example, Claim 36 as amended recites in pertinent part a method for manufacturing and finishing a rolled paper web product without requiring a parent roll reeling step and an unwinding step, the method comprising the steps of depositing an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers onto an endless forming fabric to form a wet web; transferring the wet web to a dryer for through-drying the wet web and forming an uncreped, through-dried web product; continuously advancing and transferring the uncreped, through-dried web product from the dryer to a first conveyor, the first conveyor being positioned downstream from the dryer and configured to run across pick-up means disposed proximate the dryer for picking up the uncreped, through-dried web product; receiving the uncreped, through-dried web product on the first conveyor by the pick-up means; and guiding and continuously supporting the uncreped, through-dried web product between the first conveyor and a second conveyor. As the Examiner states in the Final Office Action, the prior art does not teach or suggest transferring and continuously advancing an uncreped, through-dried web product as essentially recited by Claim

36. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed Amendment distinguishes Claim 36 over the cited references without adding new matter requiring a new search by the Examiner and places the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claim 36, and Claims 37-39 dependent thereon.

If the Examiner has any questions upon consideration of this Proposed Amendment, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,

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11-26-05
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